

DITTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DITTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT: CLLRS M J PORTER [Chairman], J A BEADLE [Vice-Chairman], W CORDWELL, P HATCHER, MRS B HOUGHTON, A R MULCUCK, N NEWMAN, D H NUNN, B D STONE, MRS A THROSSELL & MRS J F THWAITES.
MRS S J KAVANAGH [Clerk of the Council] & MRS N GREENAWAY [Admin. Asst.]

195. **OPENING OF MEETING**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

196. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were RECEIVED from Cllrs. Mrs A R Beadle and M D Brine. The previously notified reasons for absence were **APPROVED** and are recorded in the absence book Ref. 83.

Apologies were also received from Police Officer Rebecca Ballard and PCSO Robert Sayer.

197. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllrs. Mrs Thwaites and Mulcuck declared personal interests in items 202(b) as they are members of the Bowls Club. Cllrs. Mulcuck, Nunn and Mrs Thwaites declared personal interests in item 206(b) as they are Members of the Heritage Centre Committee. Cllr. Newman declared a personal interest in item 212 as the person in question is known to him.

Cllr. Stone declared a personal interest in item 206, planning matters, and requested it be **NOTED** that his comments and decisions on planning applications at this meeting are a preliminary view and, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, he will look at all applications afresh at Borough Council level and consider them solely on the basis of evidence placed before him at that meeting

198. **CONFIRMATION & SIGNING OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2nd AUGUST 2010**

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd August were **CONFIRMED** and **SIGNED**.

199. **REPORTS FROM BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

County Councillor Peter Homewood gave a report on the following matters:-

- **Salt bins** - Cllr. Homewood has put in a request for 8/9 salt bins which will be distributed amongst his parishes if the bid is successful. He reported that there are currently 1800 salt bins in the County, all of which have to be filled with salt before the winter sets in.

- **Highway Winter Maintenance** - Preparations are already in hand to ensure winter maintenance will be managed better this year.

Borough Councillor Barry Stone reported on the following matters:-

- **Mobile Kitchen Unit** – The unit is parked in Pear Tree Avenue and is causing concern for residents because of its condition and its proximity to the Infants School which is felt to be dangerous. Investigations are ongoing.
- **Parking at the Top of Bell Lane** – Customers visiting the Fish shop at this location are parking close to the junction making it dangerous for any vehicle entering or exiting Bell Lane onto the A20. Cllr. Stone has requested some form of enforcement at this location.
- **Lighting Unit, Pear Tree Avenue** – this light is located by the garages that abut the rear car park at Woodlands Parade. It has been out of action for some considerable time, despite many requests to Kent Highways, and cars and property in this area are being vandalised on a regular basis. *County Councillor Homewood asked for the details to be sent to enable him to investigate it.*

200. **MATTERS ARISING**

- (a) **Correspondence - Siting of CCTV** [Page 74, Item 179(b)]

A communication from Kent Police was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that they do not feel that placing a mobile CCTV camera in Priory Grove would be good use of the camera, because the number of reported incidents in that area is very minimal.

Since the meeting held with residents, where they were encouraged to report anti-social behaviour, they Police have received only two reports.

Cllr. Stone advised that, whilst he understood the reasons the police would not place the camera in Priory Grove, he felt that the Police had let the residents down by agreeing at the meeting that the CCTV camera would be sited there.

- (b) **Parish Partnership Panel – Agenda Items** [Page 74, Item 179(b)]

It was **NOTED** that the Borough Council has advised that the agenda items put forward by the Council are local matters and should be addressed directly between the Parish and Borough Councils rather than via the Partnership Panel.

- (c) **Finance – DCK Beavers Ltd – Request for Account clarification** [Page 75, Item 280(b)]

Members did not feel that the response from DCK Beavers addressed the question and it was therefore agreed the matter be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee on 27th September. In the meantime DCK Beavers be advised of the referral.

201. **CONFIRMATION & SIGNING OF MINUTES OF AN EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16TH AUGUST 2010**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16TH August were **CONFIRMED** and **SIGNED**.

202. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

203. **CORRESPONDENCE**(a) **For Noting**

The following correspondence was CIRCULATED, **READ** and **NOTED**:-

Tonbridge & Malling BC:	<u>Minutes of Council, Cabinet and Committee Meetings 2010 Vol. 3</u> <u>'Wise Up', Issue 16 – August 2010</u> <u>Murder Mystery Evening at Hadlow Manor Hotel 30th October 2010</u> <u>Future Developments in Ditton from Chief Planning Officer</u>
Kent County Council:	<u>Maidstone Day Service</u>
KALC:	<u>'Parish News', Issue 349, 9.8.2010</u>
Local Councils:	<u>'Update', August 2010, Issue 130</u>
Twinning Association:	<u>Minutes of meeting held 7.8.2010</u>
CPRE:	<u>'Countryside Voice', Summer 2010</u>
World Cancer Research Fund:	<u>Walking Together Campaign</u>
Rural Kent:	<u>'Rural News', - Issue 96, August 2010</u> <u>97th Annual Meeting, 15th September 2010</u> <u>Kent Community Halls Conference 2010</u>
Wildlife Trust:	<u>'Natural World', Summer 2010</u> <u>'Wild Kent', Summer 2010</u> <u>'Events Diary' October 2010 – January 2011</u>
Tanya Kenny:	<u>No Need for Nuclear – House of commons Early day Motion No. 557</u>
Kent Police:	<u>Notification of Change of Police Personnel</u>
Tarmac Limited:	<u>Agreement to Conservatory at Ditton Bowls Club</u>

(b) **For Decision**

Cllr. A R Mulcuck:

Ditton Bowls Club 25th Anniversary in 2011

A request for the parish council to provide a Trophy for the Bowls Club 25th Anniversary celebrations was **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST AND PURCHASE A TROPHY, SUITABLY ENGRAVED, UP TO A MAXIMUM COST OF £30.00.

KALC:

Finance Conference 25.09.2010

NOTED no Member is able to attend.

Kent County Council:

Kent Minerals & Waste Development Framework Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, 'Issues' Consultation – Invitation to Meeting on 8th October 2010

NOTED no Member is able to attend.

Communities and Local Gvt:

Local Referendums to Veto Excessive Council Tax Increases – Consultation

Discussion took place. Members expressed concern at the short period given to respond, due to the late receipt of the consultation.

RESOLVED THERE IS INSUFFICIENT DETAIL IN THE DOCUMENT TO FORM A DECISION AND LACK OF TIME TO REQUEST THE INFORMATION DUE TO THE DEADLINE DATE.

Kent Police Authority:

Invitation to Police Reform Consultation Event at the Ramada Hotel on Thursday 9th September 2010

NOTED no Members are available to attend.

D. Kingsnorth:

Complaint about Bowls Club guests parking on Kilnbarn Recreation Ground

Communication from a resident was **READ** and **NOTED**.

RESOLVED TO ADVISE MR/MRS KINGSNORTH THAT THERE ARE NO BYELAWS PREVENTING BICYCLES BEING RIDDEN ON THE RECREATION GROUND. HOWEVER MOTOR DRIVEN VEHICLES (INCLUDING REMOTE CONTROL CARS AND AEROPLANES) ARE PROHIBITED, UNLESS PRIOR PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL, DUE TO THE DANGER THEY POSE TO OTHER USERS OF THE RECREATION GROUND. THE BOWLS CLUB HAVE BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO PARK VEHICLES IN A SAFE MANNER ON THE RECREATION GROUND UP TO THREE TIMES A YEAR WHEN THE CAR PARK IS FULL TO ACCOMMODATE PRESTIGE BOWL'S CLUB EVENTS, PROVIDED THEY MARSHAL THE PARKING.

204. **FINANCE**(a) **Accounts Received**

The following accounts received were **READ** and **NOTED**:-

Allotment Holder:	Additional Key	8.00
Ditton Junior School:	Sports Making & Grounds Maintenance	482.48
Ditton Petanque Club:	Food	34.13
Ditton Short Mat Bowls:	Photo Copies	12.28
Multi Sports:	Income	264.00
NCS:	Reimbursement of Rental on Minolta Photocopier	564.00
RKP Football Club:	Pitch Fees 2010/11 – 2 Teams	400.00

(b) **Accounts for Payment**

RESOLVED the following accounts be **ACCEPTED, APPROVED** and **PAID**:-

Salaries:	Gross: 15910.39	Net: 11994.95
DPC Imprest A/C:	Reimbursement	580.56
Kent County Council:	Superannuation – August 2010	3560.36
1 st A Pest Control Service:	Wasp Nest Destroyed – NRRG	40.00
	Vat <u>7.00</u>	47.00
Aquaid [Kent]:	Still Water	6.75
	Vat <u>1.18</u>	7.93
Emprise Services:	August Keyholder – OSA	20.83
	Vat <u>3.65</u>	24.48
Kent County Council:	Canadian Riggers, Stationery, Line Marking & Latex Gloves	104.27
	Vat <u>17.90</u>	120.17
Mower Plant Services:	Strimmer Nylon Line	40.80
	Vat <u>7.14</u>	47.94
Mr D Pullinger:	August Play Area Locking	25.00
RBS Software:	Planning Software Maintenance – 1 Year	89.00
	Vat <u>15.58</u>	104.58
Travis Perkins:	Work Shop Supplies, Paint & Brushes for Village Green Posts, Football posts and War Memorial Railings etc.	285.50
	Vat <u>49.95</u>	335.45

Ditton Parish Council Imprest Account - Breakdown of Expenditure during August 2010

Brought forward 1 st August 2010		961.16
		<u>1538.84</u>
<u>August Expenses</u>		
Voucher Charge	3.25	
EDF Energy – NRRG Energy	46.19	
Afford Awards	27.91	
Gift Vouchers BKG	60.00	
Community Centre Expenses	40.00	
OSA Expenses	36.37	
Petty Cash – Bar	76.46	
Petty Cash – PC	75.55	
Post Office – Stamps	155.00	
Bastille Expenses	<u>59.13</u>	
	579.86	
Under Reimbursed August	<u>0.70</u>	580.56*
		<u>1919.44</u>
		2500.00

*Sum to be drawn on 6th September 2010 to restore balance to £2500.00

(c) Direct Debits Paid During July 2010

The following direct debits paid during July 2010 were **READ, NOTED** and **APPROVED:-**

[i] DITTON PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNT

01.07.2010	WPA Health	505.87
01.07.2010	Sky Business	460.60
05.07.2010	RBOS PLC Mentor	357.40
08.07.2010	Nildram	42.82
12.07.2010	Public Works Loan Board	2,463.86
20.07.2010	BT Direct Debits	73.76
16.07.2010	Hydro-Electric	2,356.33
20.07.2010	Heineken UK Ltd	3,558.47
20.07.2010	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Cncl	1,137.00
20.07.2010	The Fuelcard Co	92.34
20.07.2010	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Cncl	67.00
21.07.2010	Hive Telecom Ltd	12.40
22.07.2010	EDF Energy 1 Ltd	195.03
23.07.2010	Siemens Fin Serv	564.00
26.07.2010	EDF Energy 1 Ltd	602.48
23.07.2010	Siemens Financial	552.00
28.07.2010	GBP Walkers Snacks	74.52
28.07.2010	NW Business	32.00
30.07.2010	O2	19.42

(d) Financial Arrangements with Parish Councils

A communication from the Director of Finance at the Borough Council regarding financial arrangements for 2011/2012 was **READ** and the anticipated allocation for 2011/2012, which is

subject to agreement of the Finance and Property Advisory Board on 29th September, was **NOTED** as follows:-

Basic Allocation, based on number of voters at April 2010 = £10,233.66
 Cemeteries and Churchyards = £1,417
 Debt Charges = £2,683.20

- (e) Upgrading of Alarm System to Comply with Police Response Requirements – Quotation from Chubb

A quotation from this Council's existing provider, Chubb Security, to upgrade the present alarm system to restore police response to activations, was **READ** and **NOTED** as £1,439.00 plus vat.

RESOLVED to proceed with the upgrading and the cost be met from the Community Centre regular maintenance budget.

205. **REPORTS FROM BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Dealt with earlier in the meeting.

206. **REPORT FROM PARISH CONSTABLE/COMMUNITY POLICE**

NOTED there were no Officers present.

207. **PLANNING, HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION MATTERS**

- (a) **Plans Delegated to Chairman & Clerk During Recess**

NOTED, no plans were received during this period.

- (b) **Plans Received for Comment**

Copies of communications from residents of East Malling parish and members of Ditton Heritage Centre, containing details of their objections to the following application, were **READ** and **NOTED**. Discussion took place.

TM/10/TEMP/0025	Proposed Westerly Extension to Hermitage Quarry	Hermitage Quarry Hermitage Lane
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RESOLVED TO OBJECT TO THE APPLICATION ON THE GROUNDS OF THE LOSS OF AN ANCIENT WOODLAND AND WILDLIFE HABITAT THAT CANNOT BE REPLACED.

- (c) **Plans Dealt with by Tonbridge & Malling Area Sub-Committee No. 3**

The following decisions were **READ** and **NOTED**:-

TM/10/01594/FL	Loft Conversion with side dormer window	6 St Peter's Close
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GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS

(d) 'B' Lists

The following 'B' Lists were CIRCULATED, **READ** and **NOTED**:-

2910/29 - 26.7.2010; 10/30 - 2.8.2010; 10/31 - 9.8.2010; 10/32 - 16.8.2010; 10/33 – 23.8.10

(e) Notes, Agenda, Minutes Etc. of Area 3 Planning Sub-Committee

The above document was **READ** and **NOTED**. Cllr. Mulcuck drew Members attention to the officers recommendation in respect of retrospective application TM/09/2033/FL relating to land at the rear of the 44 New Road being incorporated into the cartilage of the Public House to be used as a beer garden.

Cllr. Stone advised that this application will be the subject of a site visit before any decision is made.

(f) Tree Preservation Order: No. 10 2010 – Land at the front of 431/439 London Road

NOTED the above Order has been confirmed.

(g) Appeal by Kent International Gateway Ltd: - Inspector's Report

A copy of the report which had previously been circulated was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the Inspector has dismissed the Appeal.

(h) Speed Limit Review Project

A communication from KCC was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that the review has been suspended due to the Government's withdrawal of the Road Safety Capital and Resource Grants.

208. **ITEMS REQUESTED BY REVIEW COMMITTEE**(a) Rebranding of Community Centre

Cllr. Beadle gave a report on the Review Committee's suggestion to re-brand and market the Oaken and Don Carman Halls to attract potential customers to hire the Centre for Weddings and other similar events.

RESOLVED that the Review Committee be permitted to explore the idea and report back to a future meeting.

(b) Bar Facilities for Dance Clubs

Due to the low bar takings at dance club functions on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings it was

RESOLVED that on these evenings the connecting door between the Oaken Hall and the Kilnbarn be left open and beverages be served to dance club patrons from the Kilnbarn bar.

209. **DRAFT MEETINGS TIMETABLE FOR 2011**

A draft meetings timetable for 2011, which had previously been circulated, was **READ, NOTED** and **APPROVED**.

210. **REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Cllr. Mulcuck reported that arrangements are well in hand and requested permission to order a wreath and PA system for the Remembrance Services.

RESOLVED to grant permission to order a wreath and PA system etc.

Thanks were recorded to Cllr. Mulcuck for organising the Remembrance Day Services each year.

211. **MATTERS ARISING FROM “CORRESPONDENCE FOR NOTING”**

(a) Future Developments in Ditton

A communication from the Borough Council was **READ** and it was **NOTED** that each potential developer will have to decide at what stage they wish to engage the public, as the Borough Council is not in a position to release the information themselves.

It was **NOTED**, however, that the planning department has been approached about alternative plans for Ditton Laboratories, but it would not be appropriate for them to say more at this stage

(b) KALC – Issue of Cheque Payments

The anachronistic legislation relating to the issue of cheque payments for local councils has been a concern for both NALC, Government and Town and Parish Councils for some time and is a top priority amongst requested reforms to the legislation.

In a recent copy of the KALC ‘Parish News’ It was **NOTED** that the Rt Hon. Grant Shapps MP, Minister for Housing and Local Government has written to the Chairman of NALC setting out his support and commitment to repeal rules regarding payment by local councils through a legislative reform order, which he intends to “set in train immediately”.

212. **REVISION OF BAN IN THE KILNBARN ISSUED 29TH AUGUST 2010**

Members were advised that on 29th August 2010, in accordance with this Council’s policy, a member of bar staff issued a ban to a customer for purchasing alcohol from the Kilnbarn and supplying it to a minor.

A communication from the offender, apologising for this behaviour, was **READ** and **NOTED**.

Discussion took place and the seriousness of this person’s action for both the minor and the Council was **NOTED**.

RESOLVED that the offender be advised of the consequences of her irresponsible and unlawful actions which the Council treats very seriously, however, in view of the content of the letter of apology and bearing in mind it was a first offence the ban will be lifted on this occasion, however, should there be any similar occurrence in the future the ban will be reinstated immediately.

Thanks were recorded to the Community Warden, John Newton, for his quick thinking and prompt action in dealing with this matter.

213. **CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Chairman
4th October 2010